AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended) System for semi-automatic line cleaning in a beverage dispensing system, said beverage dispensing system comprising at least one tap ~~(1)~~ connected via at least one beverage line ~~(3)~~ to at least one coupling means ~~(4)~~ for a keg or other beverage container ~~(5)~~, said cleaning system comprising at least one additional cleaning line ~~lines (8)~~, a control unit ~~(11)~~ and at least one switching means ~~(14)~~ connected to the control unit ~~(11)~~ for switching between a tapping mode and a cleaning mode of the beverage dispensing system,

~~**characterized in that**~~ wherein the switching means ~~(14)~~ is designed as an electronic ~~and/or~~ or a mechanical key switch ~~so that the system is operable only by authorized personnel~~.

2. (Currently amended) System according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the switching means ~~(14)~~ in the form of an electronic key switch is selected from the group consisting of ~~provided as~~ a key pad, ~~or as a~~ contact card reader, ~~or~~ contactless card reader, and ~~or as~~ a transponder.

3. (Currently amended) System according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the switching means ~~(14)~~ as a mechanical key switch is provided as a socket ~~(15)~~ with a detachable mechanical or electro-mechanical key.

4. (Currently amended) System according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the key element of an electro-mechanical key ~~(16)~~ is a permanent magnet and the switching element assigned to the socket ~~(15)~~ is a ~~magneto-reactive element, in particular a~~ Hall-sensor.

5. (Currently amended) System according to claim 1, ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~wherein the switching means ~~(14)~~ in connection with the control unit ~~(11)~~ is provided with a safety feature preventing removal of the key ~~(16)~~ from the socket ~~(15)~~ before the end of the cleaning sequence.

6. (Currently amended) System according to claim 1, ~~for semi-automatic line cleaning in a beverage dispensing system, said beverage dispensing system comprising at least one tap (1) connected via at least one beverage line (3) to at least one coupling means (4) for a keg or other beverage container (5), said cleaning system comprising additional cleaning lines (8), a control unit (11) and at least one switching means (14) connected to the control unit (11) for switching between a tapping mode and a cleaning mode of the beverage dispensing system, preferably according to any one of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** ~~wherein the switching means (14) is additionally provided with~~ further comprises an optical status indicator ~~(17)~~.

7. (Currently amended) System according to claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the optical status indicator ~~(17)~~ is provided by a lamp or lamps lighting up in different colours ~~and/~~or in different intervals.

8. (Currently amended) System according to claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the optical status indicator ~~(17)~~ is provided by a transparent socket ~~(15)~~ illuminated from behind by a lamp or lamps with light of different colour ~~and/~~or in different intervals, wherein~~,~~ ~~preferably,~~ the lamp or lamps are attached to or part of the socket ~~(15)~~.

9. (Currently amended) System according to ~~any one of the claims~~ claim 6 ~~to 8, characterized in that~~wherein the control unit ~~(11)~~ provides for a cleaning interval setting ~~and/~~or calculation and the optical status indicator ~~(17)~~ is operable by the control unit ~~(11)~~ in an alerting mode indicating that cleaning of the beverage line system is due or overdue.

10. (Currently amended) System according to claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the alerting mode is indicated by blinking of the optical status indicator ~~(17)~~ alternatingly in red and green.

11. (Currently amended) System according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein after insertion of the key ~~(16)~~ or other activation of the switching means ~~(14)~~ there is provided a preliminary interval where removal of the key ~~(16)~~ or deactivation of the switching means ~~(14)~~ will ~~not start the cleaning cycle but will~~ start a ~~simple~~ rinsing step with water.

12. (Currently amended) System according ~~to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that,~~ claim 1, wherein ~~irrespective of the location of the control unit~~ ~~(11)~~, the switching means ~~(14)~~ is positioned next to the beverage tap ~~(1)~~.

13. (New) System according to claim 6, wherein the optical status indicator is a display means with readings in text or symbols.